

**Litigants:** View the Court's current [Volunteer Mediator Panel](#) . You may also download the [Volunteer Mediator Panel Contact Sheet](#) (last updated April 9, 2010).

**Attorneys:** Download the Court's [Volunteer Mediator Application](#) to be included in the Volunteer Mediator Panel.

Alternative Dispute Resolution ("ADR") can assist parties in their efforts to settle their claims without resorting to a trial. The District of Oregon has a variety of programs for litigants, as well as specific ADR requirements for cases filed in this District.

The Court's ADR program focuses primarily on judge-assisted settlement conferences, the Volunteer Mediation Program, and mediation provided by staff mediators. You can familiarize yourself with our programs below.

## **Procedural Considerations**

Local Rule 16.4 sets forth the Court's ADR procedures. LR 16.4(c) and (d) require counsel for the parties to:

- Confer regarding the potential benefits of any private or court-sponsored ADR option within 120 days from the initiation of the suit (LR 16.4(c)); and
- File a Joint Alternative Dispute Resolution Report within 150 days of the initiation of the suit (LR 16.4(d)). Some cases are exempt from ADR requirements (LR 16.4(b)). This does not mean that such cases are inappropriate for ADR, only that the Court does not require litigants to follow the ADR procedures outlined above. Litigants may still opt to employ any of the ADR mechanisms described here. Upon the request of parties in any civil case, notwithstanding the exemptions in LR 16.4(b), the following ADR programs are available from the Court.

***Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, there is no stay of action pending ADR processes. (LR16.4(i))***

## **Mediation**

Mediation is the most common form of ADR. Parties have several mediation options:

- They may seek the services of a private mediator or mediation service;
- They may request the services of a mediator on the court-approved list of volunteer mediators (see LR 16.4(f)(1)(A)); or
- They may request, at no cost to the parties, the services of a staff mediator of the Court.

On its own motion or at the request of a party, the Court also may refer a civil case to mediation. Generally, the Court will refer parties with financial resources to private mediation and parties with limited financial resources, or indigent parties, to the court's panel of volunteer mediators.

## **Private Mediation**

The Court has a very small role if the parties elect to engage a private mediator. The Court performs its usual case management and scheduling functions in this case, and relies upon the parties to manage the settlement.

## **Court-Sponsored Volunteer Mediation Panel**

Pursuant to LR 16.4(f)(1)(B), the Court maintains a Volunteer Mediator Panel. To participate in the Panel, download and complete the Court's [Application to Serve as a Volunteer Mediator](#) . Volunteer mediators are required to utilize the Court's standard-form

[Agreement to Mediate](#)

. You may view the

[online Volunteer Mediator Panel list](#)

with links to mediator websites and subject matter survey responses. A

[Volunteer Mediator Panel Contact Sheet](#)

is also available for download.

## **Staff Mediator**

Our staff mediator is available to mediate at the request of the parties or by motion of the Court. Staff mediators are required to utilize the Court's standard-form Agreement to Mediate. Currently the Court has one staff mediator, former Oregon Supreme Court Justice [Susan Leeson](#) .

## **Other ADR Options**

Parties have a variety of other ADR options under LR 16.5:

- They may request a settlement conference or summary trial;
- They may submit the case to arbitration; or
- They may initiate any other form of ADR that appears likely to achieve resolution of the dispute.